U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2005-121-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC57871

PROJECT NAME: Pipeline for the Fork Unit 4-7-1-1

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 1 S., R 101 W.,
Sec. 7, lot 5, 6, 7.

T. 1 S., R. 102 W.,
Sec. 12, SE¼NE¼.

APPLICANT: Locin Oil Corporation

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional): none

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: An application has been received for a right-of-way for a pipeline connection for the Fork Unit 4-7-1-1.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for a natural gas gathering line from the Locin Fork Unit 4-7-1-1 well to an existing gas gathering line 2,745 feet to the south along the No Name Truck Trail. The gas gathering line would be a 3-inch steel line that would run on the surface from the well until it joins No Name truck trail where the line would then be buried in the ditch along the road. The line from the well will run on the surface because it crosses a 35 foot gulch and then runs up the side of a rocky ledge until it reaches No Name truck trail. A 35 foot width has been requested. The Fork Unit 4-7-1-1 well has been shut-in since it was drilled by Chandler & Associates due to lack of gathering lines across the large gulch.

This action will be an amendment to Locin's existing right-of-way COC57871. The terms, conditions, and stipulations of the original grant will apply. The expiration date for this right-of-way is December 31, 2025, and the amendment will run concurrent with the original grant.

The right-of-way length will be 2,745 feet with a width of 35 feet encompassing 2.21 acres more of less.

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, the application would be denied and a different transportation method would have to be used.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: An application has been received from Locin Oil Corporation for a pipeline right-of-way.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline is not located within a ten mile radius of any special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas. The pipeline construction will have little effect on air quality in the area with exception to dry periods when gusty winds may temporarily increase fugitive dust levels. Overall, construction operations should not greatly

compromise National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate mater which calls for a maximum 24-hour average to be less than or equal to 150 $\mu g/m^3$.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Temporary reductions in vegetal cover resulting from construction of the buried portion of the pipeline will leave soils exposed to eolian processes. During dry and windy periods, air quality may be compromised due to increased levels of fugitive dust originating from the exposed construction area. However, airborne particulate matter should not exceed Colorado air quality standards on an hourly or daily basis.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Revegetate surfaces disturbed during construction of the buried pipeline. Apply adequate ground cover (e.g. woody debris) to minimize surface exposure to eolian processes.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed well tie pipeline has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Eckman 2005, Compliance Dated 5/9/2005) with no cultural resources identified on the surface. However, there is a potential for buried resources on the 4-7-1-1 well pad as revealed by well pad construction monitoring (Knox and Gordon 1980, Compliance Dated 6/17/1980).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: From the tie in point on the 4-7-1-1 well pad south to the toe of the slope up to the No Name Truck Trail there is a potential to encounter buried cultural remains, including hearths and or other features.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. An archaeological monitor shall be required from the well tie pipeline connection point on the 4-7-1-1 well pad south to the toe of the slope, and the rock outcrop that leads up hill to the No Name Truck Trail.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The only noxious weed of concern on the project area is cheatgrass which is found throughout the area. There is the opportunity for noxious weeds to be introduced to the project area by construction equipment and support vehicles. Use on the seed mix proposed would provide the greatest opportunity for soil stabilization and competition against noxious weed invasion. This seed mix has not been found to move off-site or to interbreed with species found in the adjacent plant communities.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With proper reclamation cheatgrass should be prevented from dominating the site. With control of noxious weeds by the permit holder the adjacent plant communities would not be subject to weed invasion.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: The permit holder will control noxious weeds on the project site. If herbicides are used, this use will be in accordance with the label and be approved by the authorized officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The project area between the well pad and No Name Draw consists of degraded bottomlands and a deep channel incise dominated by greasewood and basin big sagebrush with an annual weed understory. The south side of the draw is a steep, rocky Wyoming big sagebrush slope supporting a moderate density and submature stand of pinyon-juniper. These sagebrush rangelands with substantive woodland encroachment are occupied by relatively few migratory birds of higher conservation interest (e.g., Brewer's sparrow, black-throated gray warbler). Normally, these sites support a low density avian community comprised of rock wren, chipping and vesper sparrow, and spotted towhee. Nesting activity occurs from late May through mid-July.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: This project would likely occur during the migratory bird nesting period, but would involve few habitat acres (2.2 acres), nearly half of which are composed of disturbed habitats lying adjacent to an existing roadbed or well pad (i.e., areas generally avoided for nest site selection). Assuming there would be no vehicle use or vegetation clearing along the surface pipeline route between No Name Draw and the No Name truck trail, it is unlikely that any migratory bird nesting attempts would be disrupted by pipeline installation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to disrupt migratory bird nesting activities.

Mitigation: No vegetation clearing, right-of-way preparation, or vehicle use would be allowed on the surface pipeline route between No Name Draw and the No Name truck trail.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The applicant shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in the No Name Gulch watershed which is a tributary to Douglas Creek (tributary to the White River). The surface pipeline will cross No Name Gulch near the confluence with Douglas Creek. At this location, No Name Gulch is extremely incised (~ 35'). Prior to installation of a surface pipeline located within the high-water marks of No Name Gulch a Nation Wide-12 permit (NW-12) must be obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers.

A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. It should be noted that Douglas Creek has been identified in the state of Colorado's monitoring and evaluation list (M & E list) with concerns regarding increased sediment loads. Activities in No Name Gulch will have direct impacts on sediment loads in Douglas Creek.

The State has classified stream segment 22 of the White River Basin as "Use Protected" and further designated as beneficial for the following uses: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 1b, and Agriculture. The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 325/100 ml, and 205/100 ml E. coli.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The buried portion of the proposed pipeline will have minimal effects on water quality in stream segment 22. However, the proposed surface pipeline could have considerable adverse impacts on No Name Gulch and

Douglas Creek. Installation of the surface pipeline within the high water marks (bank-full) of No Name Gulch will channelized flows accelerating head cuts and further incising the present channel. In addition, a pipeline situated within bank-full elevations will act as a sediment trap causing sediment and debris to accumulate behind the pipeline. Increased sediment loads behind the pipeline may decrease structural integrity of the pipeline at that location increasing potential for breakage. If a break occurs, contaminants carried in the pipeline will be directly introduced to Douglas Creek. Furthermore, the large volume of sediment backed up behind the pipeline will be rapidly deposited in to Douglas Creek compounding existing sediment issues in stream segment 22.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: It is recommended that the portion of the surface pipeline crossing No Name Gulch be suspended above the high-water mark. If the pipeline is located above the high-water mark then a NW-12 permit is not required. In addition, the suspended portion of the pipeline must be securely anchored on both banks in a location that will provide stability for the life of the pipeline.

For the buried portion of the pipeline, revegetate the disturbed surface area and apply adequate ground cover. Increasing ground cover will help mitigate surface erosion and minimize the amount of sediment introduced to No Name Gulch and Douglas Creek.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Douglas Creek is currently listed on the state's M & E list and is being monitored for possible sediment impairments. By strictly adhering to proper mitigation measures, increased sediment loads to stream segment 22 will be minimal and should not severely degrade water quality in the segment.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:
No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, riparian or wetland communities, or threatened, endangered or sensitive plant or animal species exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For riparian/wetland vegetation communities and threatened, endangered and sensitive species, the Public Land Health Standards are not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on these communities or populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status species. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The following data is a product of an order III soil survey conducted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The accompanying table highlights important soil characteristics. A complete summary of this information can be found at the White River Field Office.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Ecological site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop complex	5-65%	PJ Woodlands /Clayey Slopes	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20
90	Torrifluvents, gullied		None		Rapid	Very high	>60

Fragile soils (CSU-1) will be encountered given a 75 meter buffer zone to account for drainage away from the construction site near the tie-in point of the buried pipeline. However, the pipeline itself will be situated near the ridge top and appears to be on a slope of less than 35 % thus controlled surface use stipulations would not apply.

*74-Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex (*5 to 65 percent slopes) is found on foothills and ridges. Areas are irregular in shape and are 160 to 5,000 acres in size. The native vegetation is mainly pinyon and juniper trees with an understory of shrubs and grasses.

This unit is 40 percent Rentsac channery loam that has slopes of 5 to 50 percent, 25 percent Moyerson stony clay loam that has slopes of 15 to 65 percent, and 20 percent Rock outcrop that has slopes of 5 to 65 percent. The Moyerson soil is mainly in the lower lying areas of the unit. The components of this unit are so intricately intermingled that it was not practical to map them separately at the scale used.

The Rentsac soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the surface layer is grayish brown channery loam about 5 inches thick. The next layer is brown very channery loam about 4 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown extremely flaggy loam 7 inches thick. Sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to sandstone ranges from 10 to 20 inches. In some areas the surface layer is quite variable in texture. Permeability of the Rentsac soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate to very high.

The Moyerson soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from shale. Typically, the surface layer is light gray stony clay loam about 2 inches thick. The next layer is gray clay loam about 8 inches thick. The underlying material is gray clay 7 inches thick. Shale is at a depth of 17 inches. Depth to shale ranges from 10 to 20 inches. In some areas the surface layer is silty clay loam, silty clay, light clay, or bouldery clay loam. Permeability of the Moyerson soil is slow. Available water capacity is low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium to rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is very high.

90-Torrifluvents (0-5% slopes) gullied soils can be found along narrow valley bottoms, in swales, and on eroded fans. Areas are long and narrow or irregular in shape, characterized by

gullies, and are 40 to 200 acres in size. The native vegetation is mainly sparse desert shrubs and annual grasses. This unit is 80 percent Torrifluvents that are characterized by gullies and head cuts 3 to 35 feet deep and 5 to 150 feet wide.

Torrifluvents are moderately deep and are well drained and somewhat excessively drained. They formed in highly calcareous and gypsiferous, stratified sandy, loamy, and clayey alluvium derived dominantly from sandstone and shale. Permeability of the Torrifluvents is moderately rapid to slow. Available water capacity is moderate to high. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is very high, which results in high production of sediment during rainstorms and periods of snowmelt.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The buried portion of the pipeline crosses soil #74 which has slow permeability rates resulting in highly erosive overland flows. If adequate ground cover is not applied to this segment of pipeline construction, significant erosional problems will occur in conjunction with heavy rains and runoff.

Construction of surface pipeline encounters soil #90 (highly calcareous and gypsiferous) which is characterized by gullies and head cuts. The use of surface line through these soils mitigates soil disturbance thus reducing the potential for accelerated head cuts and gullies. However, potential exists for the surface pipeline funnel water towards No Name Gulch. Given the highly calcareous and gypsiferous nature of Torrifluvent soils, gullies and piping may result along the path of the pipeline due to the dissolution of calcium carbonate and gypsum.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Disturbed areas associated with pipeline construction should be immediately revegetated and adequate ground covered applied. The potential plant community on the Rentsac soil is mainly pinyon and juniper woodland with a sparse understory of Indian rice grass, beardless wheatgrass, mountain mahogany, big sagebrush, prairie junegrass, and bitterbrush. The potential plant community on the Moyerson soil is mainly Salina wildrye, shadscale, Sandberg bluegrass, Indian rice grass, galleta, and bottlebrush squirrel-tail.

For the surface pipeline, drainage relief structures will be necessary to mitigate channelizing water down the pipeline. Drainage relief structures will allow natural surface drainage and inhibit formation of gullies, pipes, and head cuts.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Soils encountered during pipeline construction are highly erosive in part because they have poor permeability and infiltration rates. Construction activities should not have considerable long term impacts on either of these variables. Following proper mitigation measures, overall soil health should not be severely compromised as a result of pipeline construction.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The potential plant community on the Rentsac soil is mainly pinyon and juniper woodland with a sparse understory of Indian rice grass, beardless wheatgrass, mountain mahogany, big sagebrush, prairie junegrass, and bitterbrush. The potential plant community on the Moyerson soil is mainly Salina wildrye, shadscale, Sandberg bluegrass, Indian rice grass, galleta, and bottlebrush squirrel-tail. All of the components of the potential community are present but there is a large component of cheatgrass which depresses the condition of these communities.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There would be disturbance of the plant communities by construction activities. Following reclamation the seeded species are expected to effectively stabilize the site. Over time the native communities would move onto the site.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts.

Mitigation: In addition to what is stated in the Invasive Species section, standard seed mix 1 is to be seeded on this site.

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Ecological Sites
2	Western wheatgrass (Arriba) Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Fairway/Ephraim) Yellow sweetclover (Madrid) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana/Rincon) Alternates: Winterfat	3 2 2 2 0.5 2	Alkaline Slopes, Clayey Foothills, Clayey Slopes, Claypan, Mountain Shale

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Cheatgrass makes up a significant component of the plant communities and as such these plant communities can not be considered to be meeting the public health standards. The proposed project would not affect this rating.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area and proposed crossing of No Name Draw (ephemeral) lies several hundred feet from the confluence of mainstem Douglas Creek. This large system is in proper functioning condition, in an improving trend, and is characterized by a heavy tamarisk and willow corridor supporting a higher order beaver-predicated aquatic community (e.g., speckled dace, waterfowl).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: As proposed, this pipeline route and its integral surface leg would generally have the advantage of avoiding substantive surface disturbance across the deeply incised and poorly armored No Name Draw channel and the segment that progresses perpendicular to a steep rocky slope. However, the proposed action does not state whether the operator intends on preparing or otherwise clearing vegetation from this right-of-way segment. Given these erosion-prone situations and the close proximity to the

Douglas Creek channel, it is recommended that no vegetation clearing, right-of-way preparation, or vehicle use be allowed on the surface pipeline route between No Name Draw and the No Name truck trail (approximately 1000'). Under this condition, there would be virtually no potential for increased gullying or sediment deposition that would be capable of adversely influencing aquatic habitats (e.g., longevity and stability of beaver ponds) associated with Douglas Creek.

preparation a no adverse consequences on downstream aquatic conditions in Douglas Creek. Given that the surface portion of this pipeline route south of No Name Draw, and largely perpendicular to a steep slope would involve

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to influence aquatic habitats.

Mitigation: No vegetation clearing, right-of-way preparation, or vehicle use would be allowed on the surface pipeline route between No Name Draw and the No Name truck trail (approximately 1000').

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The Douglas Creek mainstem is in proper functioning condition and, with consistently improving channel conditions and water regimens (i.e., prolonged flow persistence and channel aggradation) attributable in large degree to beaver occupation, the system fully meets the land health standard. Applying the condition that the pipeline right-of-way across the No Name Draw channel and the cross-country component between the channel and No Name truck trail would involve no surface disturbance (except for pulling the pipe), there would be no increased potential for gullying or sediment deposition to aquatic habitats associated with Douglas Creek Both the proposed and no action alternatives would have no influence on continued meeting of the land health standards for aquatic habitats.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area is encompassed by general big game winter ranges that, because of its proximity to well-travelled highway and road corridors, are sparingly occupied from October through May. There are no cliff or woodland raptor nest sites known within 0.5 mile of the project site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: It is likely that this project would be installed outside the period of big game occupation. The minor amount of sagebrush clearing associated with the project, and this along an existing well-field access road, would have no measurable adverse influence on woody forage supplies on big game winter ranges; required reclamation would replace herbaceous forages temporarily lost to right-of-way preparation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to influence terrestrial habitats.

Mitigation: see aquatic section

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project area currently meets the standards for terrestrial landscapes. As conditioned, this project would have little additional influence on the conditions of upland or valley habitats and would be consistent with continued meeting of the standards.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation			X
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within a designated routes only travel area. A section of Rio Blanco County (RBC) road 107 will be involved.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: An increase in heavy vehicle traffic will likely be associated with the construction of the proposed action which will likely cause degradation of the road surface.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: Where the surface pipeline leaves RBC road 107 and heads north to well location, a sign should be posted alerting the public that the pipeline route is closed to motor vehicle traffic.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: the northern most third of the proposed well tie pipeline appears to be located in Quaternary alluvium which is not known to be fossil bearing. However, the remaining portions of the pipeline are located in an area generally mapped as the Mesa Verde Formation, which the BLM has classified as a Condition I formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: if it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock to bury the well tie pipeline there is a high potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: A monitor shall be required any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock formation. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the Canyon Pintado National Historic District and the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

A portion of the project area has been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM physical and social recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience

is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

A portion of the project area has been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Roaded Natural (RN). RN physical and social recreation setting may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area. However, from sensitive travel routes and use areas these alterations would remain unnoticed or visually subordinate. There is strong evidence of designed roads and/or highways. Structures are generally scattered, remaining visually subordinate or unnoticed to the sensitive travel route observer. Structures may include utility corridors, microwave installations and so on. Frequency of contact is moderate to high on roads and low to moderate on trails and away from roads. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a moderate probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With the introduction of new well pads and roads, an increase of traffic could be expected increasing the likihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action would be located in a VRM class III area. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: A portion of the proposed action would be visible for a brief period of time from the existing road adjacent to the proposed action. By utilizing uncoated and not painting the steel pipe used on the surface, the oxidation process on the steel pipe would allow the steel to turn a brown color and blend with the natural color of the soils and rock in the area and not attract attention or dominate the view of the casual observer.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: Pipeline constructed and installed on the surface shall not be painted or coated, and allowed to oxidize to blend with the native rock and soils in the area.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts oil and gas activities are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Eckman, Jason

2005 Cultural Resource Inventory of the Locin Oil Corporation's Gathering Pipeline from Fork Unit 4-7-11 to an Existing Gathering Pipeline, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado.

Knox, Donna J. and E. Kinzie Gordon

1980 Construction Monitor: Chandler Fork Unit #4-7-1-4 Well & Access mitigation, Chandler & Associates, Inc., Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Gordon and Kranzush, Inc., Boulder, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: None

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Robert Fowler	Forester	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Bo Brown	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Soils
Robert Fowler	Forester	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Robert Fowler	Forester	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2005-121-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigations measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. Revegetate surfaces disturbed during construction of the buried pipeline. Apply adequate ground cover (e.g. woody debris) to minimize surface exposure to eolian processes.

2. An archaeological monitor shall be required from the well tie pipeline connection point on the 4-7-1-1 well pad south to the toe of the slope, and the rock outcrop that leads up hill to the No Name Truck Trail.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

4. The permit holder will control noxious weeds on the project site. If herbicides are used, this use will be in accordance with the label and be approved by the authorized officer. Standard seed mix #1 is to be seeded on this site.

Seed Mix#	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Ecological Sites
2	Western wheatgrass (Arriba) Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Fairway/Ephraim) Yellow sweetclover (Madrid) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana/Rincon) Alternates: Winterfat	3 2 2 2 0.5 2	Alkaline Slopes, Clayey Foothills, Clayey Slopes, Claypan, Mountain Shale

5. No vegetation clearing, right-of-way preparation, or vehicle use would be allowed on the surface pipeline route between No Name Draw and the No Name truck trail (approximately 1,000 feet).

6. The applicant shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed action.

7. It is recommended that the portion of the surface pipeline crossing No Name Gulch be suspended above the high-water mark. If the pipeline is located above the high-water mark then a NW-12 permit is not required. In addition, the suspended portion of the pipeline must be securely anchored on both banks in a location that will provide stability for the life of the pipeline.

8. For the buried portion of the pipeline, revegetate the disturbed surface area and apply adequate ground cover. Increasing ground cover will help mitigate surface erosion and minimize the amount of sediment introduced to No Name Gulch and Douglas Creek.

9. Disturbed areas associated with pipeline construction should be immediately revegetated and adequate ground covered applied. The potential plant community on the Rentsac soil is mainly pinyon and juniper woodland with a sparse understory of Indian rice grass, beardless wheatgrass, mountain mahogany, big sagebrush, prairie junegrass, and bitterbrush. The potential plant community on the Moyerson soil is mainly Salina wildrye, shadscale, Sandberg bluegrass, Indian rice grass, galleta and bottlebrush squirrel-trail.

10. For the surface pipeline, drainage relief structures will be necessary to mitigate channelizing water down the pipeline. Drainage relief structures will allow natural surface drainage and inhibit formation of gullies, pipes, and head cuts.

11. Where the surface pipeline leaves RBC 107 and heads north to well location, a sign should be posted alerting the public that the pipeline route is closed to motor vehicle traffic.

12. A monitor shall be required any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock formation. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

13. If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator

will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

14. Pipeline constructed and installed on the surface shall not be painted or coated, and allowed to oxidize to blend with the native rock and soils in the area.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff every five years.

NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 6/7/05

ATTACHMENTS: Location map of the proposed action.

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Location of Proposed Action
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